

DIALOGO

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES DIVISION



A Society for Social Neuroscience

Jean Decety reviews the structural scan of a child's brain.

(photo by Drew Reynolds)

CHICAGO PROFESSORS **JEAN DECETY** AND **JOHN CACIOPPO** ARE BRINGING RESEARCHERS TOGETHER TO FOCUS ON MUTUAL INFLUENCES BETWEEN BIOLOGY AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOR.

In a recent Australian study, a group of teenage male skateboarders performed two tricks—one that they could do easily, another that they often crashed on—ten times in front of a male experimenter and then repeated the process. A second group did the same, first in front of a male experimenter and then in front of an attractive 18-year-old female. In her presence, the skateboarders in the second group aborted fewer of their difficult tricks. Saliva tests after the experiment showed that the second group

had higher testosterone levels than the first, suggesting that the young woman's proximity elevated the skateboarders' testosterone and that elevated testosterone sparked a drive to mate and therefore to display health and vigor through risk taking.

This sort of work—illuminating how social processes like sexual desire influence neurochemical events and how neurochemical events like elevated testosterone influence social processes—is the central concern of social neu-

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

rosience, a discipline conceptualized in the early 1990s by John Cacioppo, the Tiffany and Margaret Blake Distinguished Service Professor of Psychology, and Gary Berntson, a professor at Ohio State University.

Twenty years later, research in social neuroscience is conducted worldwide, and Cacioppo and his colleague Jean Decety, the Irving B. Harris Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry, have been instrumental in founding an international social neuroscience group to organize and advance this interdisciplinary field. With Cacioppo as its first president and Decety as a founding board member, the Society for Social Neuroscience comprises some 1,500 researchers from approximately 40 countries. The society's first conference was held in San Diego in November 2010, with seminars on topics including neuropeptides, bonding, and social cognition; brain and body health; and the new field's ethical, legal, and policy implications.

Dialogo recently sat down with Decety to talk about the society, social neuroscience, and his own research.

Q&A: DECETY

DOES THE FIELD OF SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE APPLY ONLY TO HUMANS?

No, there are a lot of organisms that are social and not human. Think about social insects, prairie voles, meerkats, or chimpanzees.

Social behavior is the result of a complex integration between biological and social factors. An example of these reciprocal influences is found in monkeys: increased testosterone levels promote sexual behavior in males; the availability of sexually receptive females increases testosterone levels.

WHY STUDY SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE IN ANIMALS?

Humans are what we're ultimately interested in, and this is why I became a neuroscientist. But we share a lot of genes with other animals, even with simple organisms such as the worm *C. elegans*. In an interdisciplinary field of study that includes behavioral neuroscience, system neuroscience, behavioral ecology, and social psychology, and which seeks to understand how biological systems implement social behavior, we need to understand how the molecular and cellular mechanisms underpinning social interaction have evolved across species. Besides, you can investigate the neurobiological mechanisms in nonhuman animals in ways

“John and I discussed starting a society, but we wanted our colleagues from all over the world to tell us to do it.”

that you cannot do in humans, for obvious ethical reasons. Thus to me, comparative research is extremely important and valuable.

HOW DID THE NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETY COME ABOUT?

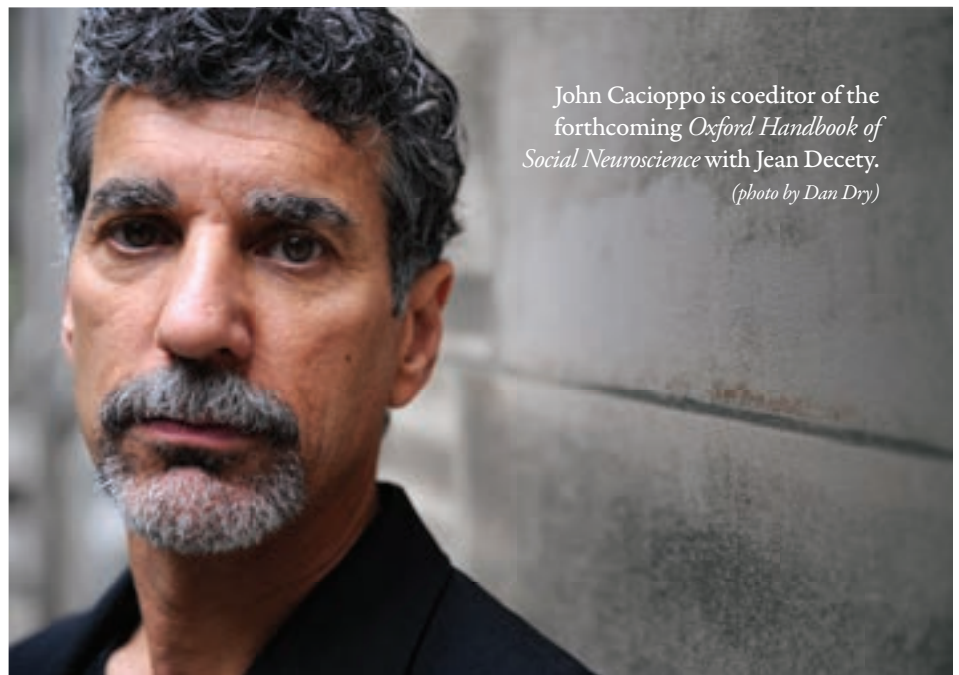
About two years ago, John came down to my office. Some colleagues were criticizing the way correlations were computed in some social neuroscience studies, especially in experiments using functional neuroimaging and personality assessments. Some studies that were not very serious in terms of concepts, analytic methods, and power were published in high-profile journals and received widespread coverage in the media. For example, newspapers would run stories linking political decision making or moral judgment to a single brain region. People started to say, “Oh these guys, they will find correlations with anything. Should these studies be funded by NSF or NIH?”

John and I were quite concerned about various overblown conclusions, faulty methods, and misleading press coverage. We discussed

how we could do something about the situation by helping organize and focus the field. We decided to do two things. The first was to coedit the *Oxford Handbook of Social Neuroscience*, a huge book that will be published at the end of this year. We contacted people we knew who were excellent scholars in their respective domains of expertise, from endocrinology to neuroethics, and invited them to contribute.

AND THE SECOND WAS FOUNDING THE SOCIETY?

Yes. John and I discussed starting a society, but we wanted our colleagues from all over the world to tell us to do it. Otherwise, it would seem like American arrogance, when science is international and not just a matter of American universities. Last January, we went on a trip to several countries in Asia, Australia, and New Zealand, six cities in 14 days. Afterwards I went to Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Israel, and various countries in Europe. We gave talks, held workshops, and discussed with scientists around the world the opportunities and chal-



John Cacioppo is coeditor of the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Social Neuroscience* with Jean Decety.

(photo by Dan Dry)

allenges we faced with this discipline. Most of the colleagues we spoke with—whether they were biologists, psychiatrists, neurologists, psychologists, economists, people working with animals, people working with humans—said, “We should have a society. We should meet regularly and set standards for the science and so on.”

WHAT ABOUT YOUR OWN RESEARCH, PARTICULARLY YOUR WORK ON EMPATHY?

Empathy is a complex construct, so I am very careful to study it from many angles, components, and perspectives. My primary research tool is functional magnetic resonance imaging. This allows us to look at the brain in vivo to see how it responds to empathy-laden scenarios. We can, for instance, characterize neurodevelopmental changes across age, from early childhood to adulthood, and their relation to morality, or explore abnormal neural processing associated with socioemotional dysfunctions in children with aggressive conduct disorder and in incarcerated psychopaths.

I am also very interested in empathy in the context of medical practice. In such a context, empathy is challenging because doctors and nurses are dealing with the most emotionally distressing situations—illness, dying, suffering in every form. Too little and too much empathy can be detrimental to the physicians’ well-being. We’re scanning medical students in Japan and Taiwan when they start their medical residency. After some of them go through an empathy training program, they get scanned a second time to evaluate the impact of the intervention. Our goal is to see how we can educate more physicians to engage in clinical empathy, thus enhancing the effectiveness of their care for patients while preventing the costs of too much emotional sensitivity that can lead to burnout or compassion fatigue. This work will shed light on the medical profession’s long-standing struggle to achieve an appropriate balance between empathy and clinical distance.

SO YOU’RE INTERESTED IN NOT ONLY THE SCIENCE BUT ITS EFFECT ON SOCIETY AS WELL.

Yes, and John is the same—we want the science to go beyond the lab. This is also what we want the Society for Social Neuroscience to be good at: explaining to policy makers and the public that the research done in social neuroscience can have a positive influence on society. Progress in social neuroscience will affect law making, social policies, education, mental health—everything.

Report from the Dean



Nearing completion at the corner of 57th Street and Ellis Avenue is an extraordinary symbol of the University of Chicago’s commitment to the text, the primary research material in many areas of the humanities and social sciences. When it is finished later in the spring, the **Joe and Rika Mansueto Library** will house a state-of-the-art facility for the Special Collections Research Center and some 3.5 million volumes, a 78 percent expansion of the capacity of the Joseph Regenstein Library. At a time when every other major research university has shuttled large parts of its collection off to storage miles distant from campus, the University of Chicago has invested in a facility that will maintain its entire holdings at the center of campus for at least the next two decades.

Social sciences scholars and students were key contributors to the vision that is now becoming reality. SSD faculty spearheaded the planning for the new library as members of the Library Board and an ad hoc faculty taskforce on space for the collections. Sociology professor Andrew Abbott’s studies of the changing role of the library in liberal arts study and scholarship were particularly useful in shaping the University’s plans. And without the generosity of two of our social sciences alumni, the Mansuetos—Joe (AB’78, Business Administration, who is also MBA’80) and Rika Yoshida (AB’91, Anthropology)—and their dedication to the values of the University, the University of Chicago may well have added to the dreary march of key research collections to locations off campus, out of sight and out of mind.

Now, instead, we have a magnificent building that harnesses 21st-century technology to meet the needs of today’s humanistic scholars: a lozenge-shaped glass-domed reading room atop millions of books shelved in 50-foot racks and retrieved—in less than five minutes—by a robotic forklift. You will want to see it for yourself, but until you can visit, take a look at the way-cool video tour of the library’s construction at mansueto.lib.uchicago.edu/videos.html. As for what this means for our scholarship and study, I can do no better than to quote the director of the University Library, Judith Nadler: “Groundbreaking research thrives on ready access to a wealth of scholarly materials—and inspiring spaces for their exploration. The Joe and Rika Mansueto Library gives us both.” Come check it out.

Mark Hansen

John Mark Hansen, Dean



Márcia Balisciano has framed a career at Benjamin Franklin House.
(photo by Alan Schlaifer)

Time Traveler

AN ALUMNA KEEPS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S LEGACY ALIVE
IN 21ST-CENTURY LONDON.

Commerce and American history have always held an equal appeal for Márcia Balisciano, and she's pursued her interest in both. After earning a master's degree from the Committee on International Relations—with a thesis that looked at 19th- and 20th-century Japanese economic and political development—Balisciano, AM'90, went to work for an apparel manufacturing company.

Next stop was the London School of Economics, where she wrote her doctoral dissertation on the "hidden history" of US economic planning from the 1930s to the 1950s. During

her last three years of graduate school, Balisciano took a position at the American Chamber of Commerce, where her portfolio included supporting US-UK business partnerships.

Balisciano knew she didn't want to teach, but she loved the stimulation of studying history. Finishing her doctorate, she wondered, "What am I going to do to replace this part of my life that for the last few years has been about academics?"

The answer came in 1999, when in a Chamber of Commerce meeting Balisciano was asked if she knew anyone who might be in-

“What am I going to do to replace this part of my life that for the last few years has been about academics?”

terested in taking on a project to restore the former home of Benjamin Franklin, who had lived in London for nearly 16 years on the eve of the Revolutionary War.

“I just knew that was my job,” she says. “And it’s funny, because life comes full circle.” Balisciano grew up in Salem, Massachusetts, where, after a stint delivering newspapers, she served as a teenage tour guide at two historic homes: the Witch House, directly tied to the witch trials of 1692, and the House of Seven Gables, which inspired Nathaniel Hawthorne’s eponymous novel.

Stumbling on the Benjamin Franklin House project “was like finding a needle in a haystack. Here was a derelict building in the center of London—the only surviving house of Benjamin Franklin in the world.” As director, Balisciano threw herself into overseeing the restoration of the house, designing its public offerings and fundraising to help it open to the public on Franklin’s 300th birthday in 2006.

Franklin lived and worked at the house on Craven Street, a short distance from Trafalgar Square, between 1757 and 1775. (He returned to America briefly from 1762 to 1764.) As the colonies’ agent in Britain, he divided his time between diplomacy, scientific experiments, music, socializing, writing, and inventing. During this period he also made the transition “from being a loyal servant of the king to an ardent patriot,” says Balisciano. “That happened on this side of the Atlantic, and it had a tremendous impact on the underlying ethos of what became the United States.”

Balisciano is passionate about Benjamin Franklin House and has raised more than \$6 million to support its restoration, educational and outreach programs, and endowment. Still, she admits, “I find it difficult to get all of my satisfaction in one area.” After leaving her job

at the Chamber of Commerce, in 2002 she went on to serve as director of corporate responsibility at Reed Elsevier, a global publisher and information provider. “I look at how we can improve our nonfinancial position as a company, alongside our financial performance,” she says. That involves helping Reed Elsevier set and abide by ethical standards, including in its supply chain; consider environmental impacts; and support projects in the communities where the company does business.

Working simultaneously for a large multinational firm and a small cultural institution gives Balisciano a dual perspective and what she calls “a rich diversity of responsibility.” She balances the two roles with help from “two fantastic teams” at Reed Elsevier and Benjamin Franklin House. She says, “Each day calls for prioritizing and tackling the most important issues.”

Balisciano completed her AM in a single academic year at Chicago, but she maintains and values ties with the University. Back in 1999, she met John Studzinski, MBA’80, a senior managing director and global head of Blackstone Advisory Partners, at a UChicago London alumni event. Active in both business and philanthropic circles, he began advising Balisciano in her early years at Benjamin Franklin House and now chairs its board of governors. Three College students have also worked at the house as Metcalf interns.

Looking ahead, Balisciano plans to continue pursuing both her corporate and non-profit work. “I don’t think that even with one job, a person gets everything done that they wish to in a day,” she says. But a favorite quote from Franklin’s *Autobiography* reveals her determination to try: “Resolve to perform what you ought. Perform without fail what you resolve.”—Elizabeth Station



For more information about Benjamin Franklin House, visit benjaminfranklinhouse.org.



Adrian Johns and Alison Winter

Shoptalk

HISTORY OF SCIENCE AT CHICAGO

The names are a little clunky: the Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science (CHSS) and the Morris Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine. But the work coming out of these two programs is anything but dull.

Together, CHSS and the Fishbein Center organize all the history of science activities at Chicago: everything from an undergraduate major to a joint graduate program with the Pritzker School of Medicine.

The two programs share many faculty members, including Arnold Davidson (philosophy), Jan Goldstein (history), Adrian Johns (history), Robert Richards (history, philosophy, and psychology), Stephen Stigler (statistics), William Wimsatt (philosophy and evolutionary biology), and Alison Winter, AB'87 (history).

Johns, who also serves as chair of CHSS, and Winter spoke with *Dialogo* contributor Carrie Golus, AB'91, AM'93, about the two programs and their own work. Johns is the author of *The Nature of the Book: Print and Knowledge in the Making* (University of Chicago Press, 1998) and *Death of a Pirate: British Radio and the Making of the Information Age* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2011). Winter is the author of *Mesmerized: Powers of Mind in Victorian Britain* (University of Chicago Press, 1998) and *Memory: Fragments of a Modern History*, forthcoming from University of Chicago Press.

Q&A: JOHNS AND WINTER

COULD YOU EXPLAIN THE HISTORY OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AT CHICAGO? HOW HAS IT CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

Johns: CHSS was originally founded in 1970 as Conceptual Foundations of Science. For its first generation, it focused on philosophical analysis of the hard sciences, especially physics. Now there's been a shift toward the life sciences—neurology, biology, evolutionary science.

In the last decade, in a quiet, unannounced way, Chicago has developed one of the strongest interdisciplinary programs in the country. We have great strengths in the social sciences.

Winter: Another new strength is our MD-PhD students. They usually work on some aspect of humanistic study—anthropology of medicine, history of medicine, philosophy, ethics.

HOW MANY CENTURIES MUST IT TAKE THEM TO FINISH?

Winter: I'm very impressed with the people who do it.



WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT ACADEMIC PROJECTS?

Winter: Last Sunday, I finished *Memory: Fragments of a Modern History*, about the history of the sciences of memory in the 20th century. I was particularly interested in autobiographical memory—how you remember events from your past, rather than, say, classroom or book learning.

Now I want to work on the history of film: scientific films, training films, research films in psychology, psychiatry, the neurosciences. I haven't done much yet. It's only Wednesday.

Johns: I'm between projects, because I just finished two things: *Piracy*, about information piracy but going back 400 years, and *Death of a Pirate*, about 1960s pirate radio in the UK and popular experiment.

IN *THE NATURE OF THE BOOK*, YOU MENTION THAT *SCIENCE* AND *SCIENTIST* ARE OFTEN USED ANACHRONISTICALLY.

Johns: The term *scientist* was invented in the 1830s by William Whewell, the polymathic Cambridge don. Prior to that, if you investigated nature, you were a natural philosopher.

It's important to bear that in mind when looking at people from much earlier—say, Newton. To call Newton a scientist is to risk placing him in the wrong category altogether.

HOW WAS NEWTON NOT A SCIENTIST?

Johns: What we tend to remember now is Newton's work in mathematics, astronomy, optics, and later, running the Royal Society,

advancing notions of method.

But he spent at least as much time doing Biblical exegesis, apocalypics, alchemy. The discourse of God, as Newton said, is part of natural philosophy. We would not now take that to be the business of the scientist.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CRITIQUING SCIENCE AND DOUBTING SCIENCE?

Johns: Historians of science are skeptical in the humanistic sense. We see scientific achievements as worthy of admiration but not adulation.

It's a delicate public issue, not least because of the so-called science wars. There's a convention in the media that everything has two sides. So reporters dig up the tiny, tiny proportion of the scientific community who are relatively skeptical about climate change, in order to give an impression of evenhandedness.

WHEN YOU SAY "SCIENCE WARS," DOES THAT INCLUDE THE PARODY PAPER WRITTEN BY PHYSICIST ALAN SOKAL IN 1996, IN WHICH HE CLAIMED GRAVITY WAS A SOCIAL AND LINGUISTIC CONSTRUCT?

Johns: That was the heart of it. The pastiche is brilliant, actually. I think one should salute the Swiftian wit of that paper.

WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN?

Johns: I wouldn't have thought the paper was fake. It wouldn't even have occurred to me. I just would've thought it was worthless.

Winter: I don't know. The stuff it was mak-

ing fun of is very far from any areas that I work in or am ever invited to review. I have a great distaste for that genre.

Johns: A lot of academic work that's published is basically rubbish.

WHAT'S IT LIKE WORKING WITH UNDERGRADUATES IN THIS DISCIPLINE? DO THEY HAVE DIFFERENT QUESTIONS OR DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES FROM GRAD STUDENTS?

Winter: I love working with undergraduates. I love how totally open they are.

My field, the modern history of science and medicine, is new enough and unresearched enough that it's very easy to get to the edge of it. It's possible to push undergraduates in some general direction, and as soon as they take a couple steps, they trip over some totally new, amazing topic.

CAN YOU GIVE AN EXAMPLE?

Winter: I certainly can: the history of film in the human sciences. It's incredibly important, but there's almost no scholarly literature.

In my History of Medicine course, I have three different students who have discovered films that probably haven't been studied since they were made. They're doing primary research in areas that have no secondary literature.

One of them is working on films of LSD research in the 1950s and 1960s. I thought those were still classified. He showed them to me on YouTube.

HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE?

Winter: When I started college here, I wanted to major in physics and English. Around the middle of my second year, I realized I could major in HiPSS (History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine). I decided that during the second quarter of Science, Culture, and Society. And this quarter, I'm teaching it.

SO YOU'VE COME FULL CIRCLE.

Winter: Yes. Also this quarter, I'm coteaching Literature, History, and Science: 1750–1900 with James Chandler (English), who taught my first-year humanities course and became a wonderful mentor to me. I did an independent study with him on a Newtonian poem of the 18th century—which I now find really boring.

This is the first time I've ever taught with him. It's made me very nostalgic.



During Carnival 2011, members of My Business Band cross Delmas 2, a neighborhood bordering Bel Air.
(photo courtesy of Chelsey Kivland)

Artistic Force

CHELSEY KIVLAND EXPLORES HOW HAITIAN PERFORMANCE TROUPES AFFECT THEIR COUNTRY'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE.

In the summer of 2008, when anthropology doctoral candidate Chelsey Kivland, AM'06, settled in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to begin her dissertation research, one of the first things she bought was a wooden rolltop desk. Kivland liked the desk so much that she paid \$50 for it, well over Haiti's fair market value. Over the next 18 months, the desk became her office as she studied the role of street performance troupes in Haitian society. Then, on January 12, 2010, a seven-magnitude earthquake ravaged the country, and Kivland's home collapsed. Kivland, who was not in the house when it fell, was evacuated from Haiti to Santo Domingo after three days and assumed she'd never recover the months of ethnographic research stored on her laptop and in her notebooks. Several of her friends decided to search the rubble the following week: "I lived on the first story in the back room," says Kivland. "The way the home collapsed, there was an entryway

into what looked like the space where my room had been. They could see the desk, which had somehow stayed intact. They opened it up and found everything."

With her files once again in hand, Kivland has spent the past year and a half writing her dissertation about Haiti's Carnival groups, composed of performance troupes, also known as *bann a pye* or "foot bands," and their associated social organizations. In particular, Kivland is examining how such groups in Bel Air, an impoverished neighborhood in central Port-au-Prince, organize and carry out community projects and use politicized performance to garner support for their initiatives.

Trained as a modern dancer, Kivland studied sociology and dance as an undergraduate at Colorado College. After graduation, she taught middle school in the South Bronx and then high school in Brooklyn, coming to know many Haitian students. As her knowledge of the country grew, Kivland also learned that her late grandfather, Edward Guzi, had imported baseballs from Haiti. "My grandfather died fairly young," says Kivland. "But my grandmother, Anne, had traveled to Haiti quite a

lot with him, and we started talking about it. That's when my interest really developed."

From the start of her doctoral studies, Kivland knew that she wanted to write a dissertation on performance and politics and perhaps focus on Haiti; in 2006, she traveled there for the first time. When she met with an official in the Ministry of Culture, Kivland remembers, "He said, 'Why are you sitting here talking to me? If this is what you're interested in, you should walk up this hill to the neighborhood of Bel Air.'" He suggested Bel Air because "the tradition of Carnival groups has been established in this neighborhood for a long time," says Kivland. "I met with the directors of two of these groups on the trip and realized that this was exactly the kind of project I wanted to do. The Bel Air groups have a strong tradition of both performance and neighborhood social work."

Two years later, she began her doctoral research. Each morning, Kivland left her home on a tree-lined side street, took public transportation—that is, a pickup truck—to the city center, and then walked up the hill to Bel Air, where she observed and interviewed members of the neighborhood's 38 Carnival groups. Kivland set out to explore the widespread perception in Haitian society that "there is no state" and how the groups act politically given this perception of living in a country without a clearly defined government that is accountable to its citizens. The Haitian notion of statelessness stems from the country's diffuse network of governance, says Kivland; that network is composed of governmental ministries, the UN peacekeeping mission, and nongovernmental organizations. "Governance is done by many different players, and there is no centralized locus of power provisioning services to the public. There are named leaders, but in everyday reality, the government is one of many players doing what we would call governance."

Enter the *bann a pye*, whose motto is "we make the state." Dating back to Haiti's early independence, they are composed of musicians, actors, and dancers and led by an organizing committee. During Carnival and other festivals throughout the year, the performers, mostly young men, take to the streets, putting on performances with political content. The ethos of the performance troupes, says Kivland, is bringing citizens out of misery, keeping them active, and stressing the need for education, healthy living, and a clean neighborhood. This philosophy is reflected in their song lyrics, for example: "Haitians who do not eat well, Haitians who are in misery, begin to cry without stopping, but go,



Chelsey Kivland (right), visits her godchild and his mother on the Champs de Mars, the central plaza in Port-au-Prince.

(photo courtesy of Chelsey Kivland)

but go, but go, people of Bel Air" (from "The People Are Standing Up," performed by L'as ou Neuf Band, Port-au-Prince, 2009).

Over the past five to seven years, Kivland says, many of the *bann a pye* have founded associated social organizations. These organizations—which share their performance troupe's committee members, motto, and guiding principles—plan and carry out community projects such as street cleaning, building playgrounds, or running adult literacy programs. To fund their initiatives, they may petition the Haitian Ministry of Social Affairs, a Brazilian NGO, or the UN peacekeeping mission. According to Kivland, they understand "making the state" as calling on those who govern to provide services and in so doing, compelling these disparate agents to act like a state.

The *bann a pye* perform in public spaces to secure community support for the projects and petitions and demonstrate their social organizations' local influence. "The performance is important because it shows togetherness," says Kivland. "That this is a group with the capacity to organize and with a crowd of people backing them." Through their social projects and performances, the Carnival groups act as brokers between the network of governance and the public. Because they've cultivated strong local support, foreign and national agencies depend on them to carry out development projects, which, in turn, helps these groups secure funding.

Kivland hopes that her research will help illuminate their strength and effectiveness. "I think the international community would be well served to see, in these poor neighborhoods in particular, what Haitians are already doing to make a better life for themselves," she

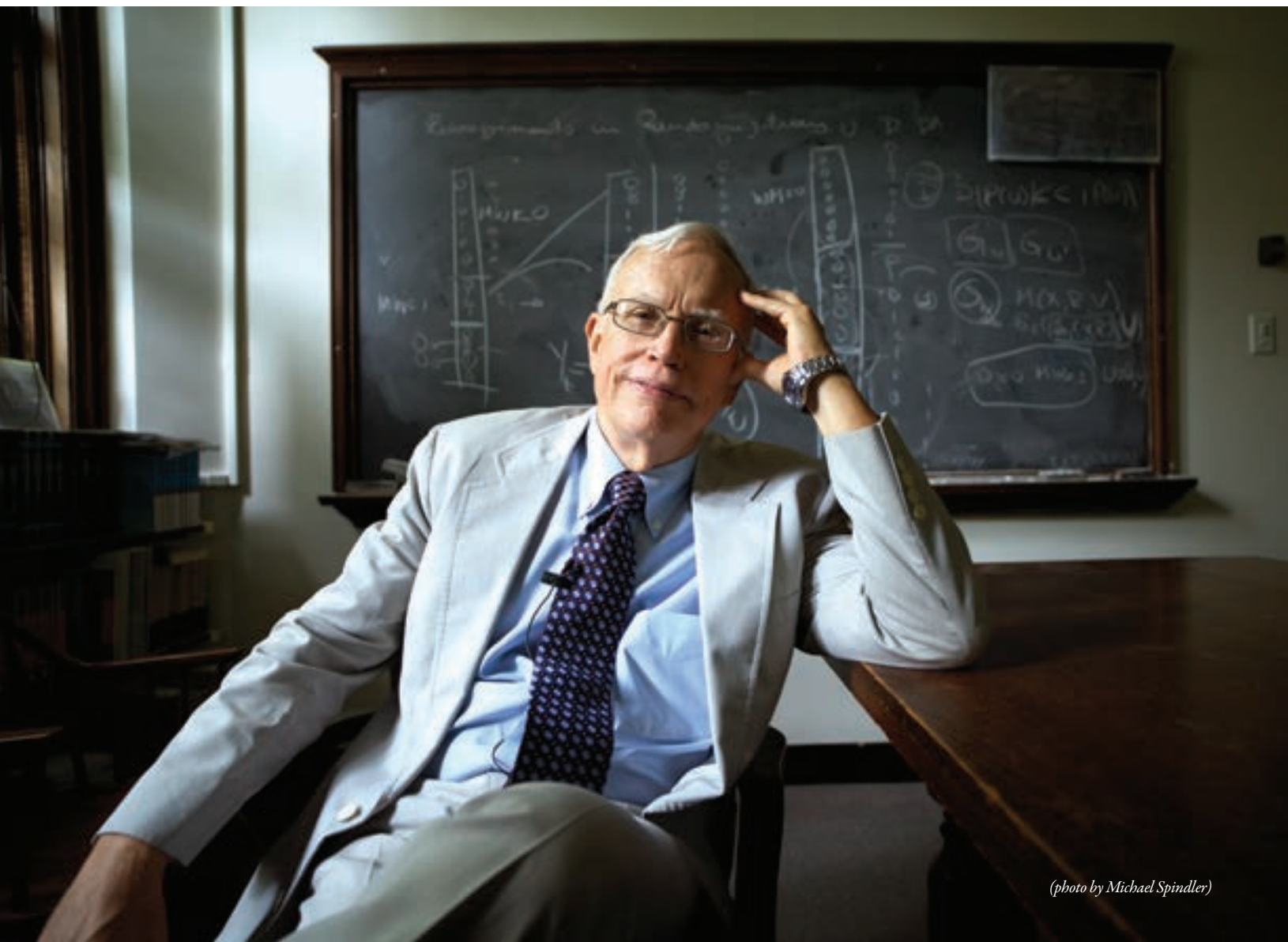
says, "and to help make those actions possible instead of imposing methods from outside."

After the earthquake, Kivland returned to Haiti for two brief stints in August 2010 and January 2011, but she has spent most of her time in Chicago, writing her dissertation, which she intends to complete next year with the support of a Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. According to Kivland, the Carnival groups have resumed their activities, but, given the total devastation, their song lyrics and project petitions reflect less optimism and new priorities, for example, moving people out of tents back into homes. The natural disaster was "such a disruption in people's lives that in many ways, if the earthquake did anything to my research, it made it a historical project," she says. She thought long and hard about doing further research on post-earthquake Haiti, but, with input from her advisers, decided to write now and pursue that work next: "I plan to continue with this topic, and my next project will deal in depth with the earthquake environment." The devastation, says Kivland, "has made me feel like this is important work." —K.E.M.

At the Epicenter

Read Kivland's first-person account of her experience during the earthquake in a May–June/2010 *University of Chicago Magazine* feature available online at magazine.uchicago.edu/1006/features/.

Seriousness of Purpose



(photo by Michael Spindler)

THREE ALUMNI SHARE THEIR MEMORIES OF WORKING WITH PROFESSOR JAMES HECKMAN.

James Heckman is the Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics, a Nobel Memorial Prize winner in economics (2000), and an expert in the economics of human development. He has published more than 200 articles and several books, including *Inequality in America: What Role for Human Capital Policy?* (with Alan Krueger, MIT Press, 2003) and *Law and Employment: Lessons from Latin America and the Caribbean* (with Carmen Pages, University of Chicago Press, 2004).

Last November students and colleagues of Heckman held a conference in his honor at the Milton Friedman Institute for Economic Research called “Bridging the Gap between Economic Theory and Econometric Practice.” A few months later, *Dialogo* contributor Benjamin Recchie, AB’03, asked three of Heckman’s former students to share their memories of working with him.

Richard Robb, AM’83, PhD’85, manages a hedge fund and teaches at Columbia Univer-

sity. Brook Payner, AB'79, AM'81, PhD'87, is a founding partner at an investment management company in New York. Thomas Coleman, AM'81, PhD'84, is a retired hedge fund manager and adjunct faculty at Fordham University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Q&A: COLEMAN, PAYNER, AND ROBB

HOW DID EACH OF YOU COME TO KNOW JAMES HECKMAN?

Coleman: When I came to Chicago, they had a number of students without financial aid in the economics department, including me. I'm not actually exactly sure how I was introduced to Jim, but I basically went looking for a work-study job and was hired on the spot.

Payner: Tom and I met the first day of class as graduate students. After Tom was hired, he introduced me to Jim and I started working with him shortly after that. Richard was a couple of years behind us.

Robb: I vividly remember meeting Jim. I had seen his 1976 paper on sample selection bias when I was in college, so when I arrived at Chicago I thought, "I've got to keep an eye on this guy." I went and knocked on his door and introduced myself, saying that I wanted to be his student. He seemed quite distinguished and ancient at the time—he was in his late thirties. Since I had a fellowship, it didn't cost him anything to hire me, so he gave me some stuff to do.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO WORK WITH HIM AS A GRADUATE STUDENT?

Robb: Any of his students would recognize the seriousness of purpose with which he addressed problems. We would do our best to meet his expectations because he was also working with great effort. His objective was to solve a problem, not to write a paper or to be a careerist. I didn't realize how rare this was at the time.

Coleman: You might say he was cynical about academics or the profession of economics but certainly never cynical about the problems that he worked on.

Robb: Our names would show up on papers as coauthors. We didn't have to ask for it; he

just did it because he thought it was right. It's extraordinary.

Payner: The dissertation research that I was working on was a topic that had to do with the impact of government policy on black employment in the South. Given that I was from the University of Chicago, most people would think the answer would be that the government policy didn't have a lot of impact, or the market had a more important impact. In fact, we found that the government had a very significant impact. I think that's one of the most important things—that Jim focused on the data and trying to find what was really driving the results.

CAN YOU SHARE ANY MEMORIES OF HECKMAN YOU THINK REVEAL HIS SPECIAL CHARACTER?

Coleman: So many of our memories are associated with going up to his office late in the day and just talking with him for an hour or two at a time, trying to work through a problem or talking about economics.

Robb: He has a deep knowledge of how concepts developed and originated in the

history of economic thought and mathematics. He knows about the founders of topology in the 19th century, who they are and what they contributed. You wouldn't expect that from a professor of economics—or anybody.

HOW DO YOU KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIM TODAY?

Robb: I communicate with him in spurts, which wears me out because I can't keep up. There was one time last year where we exchanged 40 e-mails in a 14-hour period. Then it will trail off and we won't talk for months, and then we'll pick up right where we left off.

Payner: I certainly always try to see him whenever I visit Chicago. Richard and I were there for the conference at the Milton Friedman Institute, and Tom and I have seen him together a number of times on campus over the past several years. We frequently invite him to visit.

Coleman: We suspect that he's come to New York and not seen us.

Payner: We're very offended by that. Put that in the newsletter. That way he'll know he has to tell us when he's in town.



“He knows about the founders of topology in the 19th century, who they are and what they contributed. You wouldn't expect that from a professor of economics—or anybody.”

Divisional & Alumni News

DIVISIONAL NEWS

RESEARCH



(photo by Dan Dry)

List in the News

John List, professor of economics, was the subject of a feature story in the April 2011 issue of *Bloomberg Markets Magazine*. The piece focused on List's ongoing research project in a Chicago Heights preschool to determine whether investing in teachers or in parents leads to more gains in a child's early educational performance. Also in April, List was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, joining one of the nation's most prestigious honorary societies and a leading center for independent policy research. In November 2010, List was included in a *Forbes* magazine article profiling seven behavioral economists who "have helped explain our complex and often irrational human nature."

Keysar Examines Communication Between Couples

In January, **Boaz Keysar**, professor of psychology, coauthored a study published in the *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*. The findings suggested that married couples do not communicate with one another as well as they think they do—and sometimes communicate no better than strangers. Communication problems arise, said Keysar, when a speaker assumes that a well-known acquaintance has all the information the speaker has,

removing the perceived need for a long explanation.

Incentives for Educators

On April 4, leading researchers from around the country participated in a conference called "Economic Models in Education Research," organized by **Derek Neal**, professor of economics, and **Stephen Raudenbush**, the Lewis-Sebring Distinguished Service Professor of Sociology and chair of the Committee on Education. The conference focused on the challenges of rewarding teachers financially for outstanding performance, with workshops outlining basic tools that will help the next generation of educational researchers "inform the design of new incentive and accountability systems in education before they are tested in the field," said Neal.

AWARDS

Hansen Honored

In June, **Lars Hansen**, the David Rockefeller Distinguished Service Professor of Economics, will accept a BBVA Foundation 2010 Frontiers of Knowledge Award. Hansen will receive the prize in the category of Economics, Finance, and Management for "making fundamental contributions to our understanding of how economic actors cope with risky and changing environments." The award citation referenced Hansen's exploration of the interconnections between macroeconomic indicators and asset prices in financial markets and stated that this "work forms the basis for much contemporary empirical research in financial economics."

Decety and Beilock Recognized

Jean Decety, the Irving B. Harris Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry, and **Sian Beilock**, associate professor in psychology, were named fellows

of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Decety was cited for his "seminal neurophysiological studies of the brain's role in empathy, sympathy, and social cognitive disorders." He is the editor of the journal *Social Neuroscience*. Beilock was cited for "distinguished contributions to the field of psychology, particularly



(photo by Jason Smith)

for research on individual differences, stereotypes, learning, and memory." She is the author of *Choke: What the Secrets of the Brain Reveal About Getting It Right When You Have To* (Simon & Schuster, 2010).

In addition, Beilock was one of six scholars to receive the 2011 Janet Taylor Spence Award for Transformative Early Career Contributions from the Association for Psychological Science. She was recognized for her analysis of skilled performance in stressful situations.

CENTER UPDATE



Center Confers on Strauss as Teacher

For many years, the late political philosopher Leo Strauss taught in Room 122 of the

Social Science Research Building; this spring some of his past students were back in that same space. Over two days in late April, an enthusiastic group of scholars, alumni, donors, and friends

nearly filled the room for a Strauss Center conference called “Leo Strauss as Teacher.” Some attendees had come from as far as France, a hub for research on Strauss, and many offered insights into Strauss as an instructor and a man.

The Strauss Center is directed by **Nathan Tarcov**, professor of social thought and political science, and administered by **Stephen Gregory**, AB’81, AM’90. It was established to “promote the serious study of Leo Strauss’s thought primarily through the preservation and publication of the unpublished written and audio record that he left behind.” A recording of the conference will be available soon on the Strauss Center’s new website, launched in December 2010, at leostrausscenter.uchicago.edu.

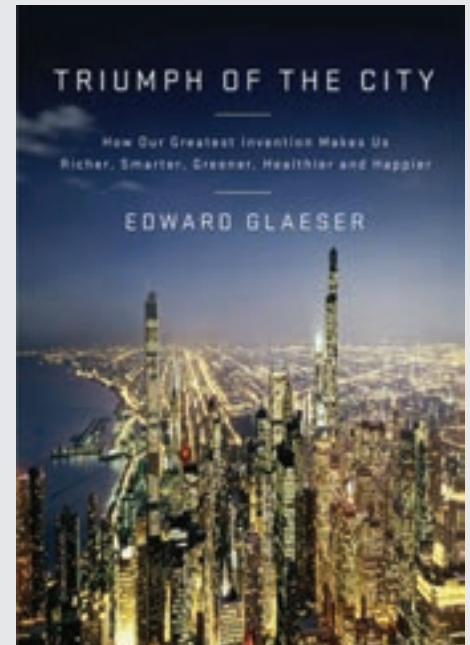
ALUMNI NEWS

Upon graduating from Chicago, **Delia Rarela-Barcelona**, PhD’83 (Sociology), became chair of graduate studies and then dean of the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication. In 1995, after completing more than 15 years of service with the University of the Philippines, she was recruited to the United Nations

Population Fund (UNFPA), a specialized UN agency. Since joining UNFPA, she has worked in its headquarters in New York as senior technical adviser on communication and education, then as country representative in Mongolia, and now as deputy regional director for the Arab states in Cairo.

Sanjiv Kumar, AM’83, PhD’86 (Economics), who cofounded commodity trading advisor Fort LP in 1983, was featured in the March 2011 issue of *Futures Magazine*. The article, by Daniel Collins, was called “Top Traders of 2010.” Fort LP, which Kumar operates with cofounder Yves Balcer, offers two programs, one contrarian and one trend following, and “continues to produce strong noncorrelated returns” in both, wrote Collins. “Kumar and Balcer have been managing money on their own for nearly 20 years and they are still making improvements to their systematic methods. No burnout in sight.”

Edward Glaeser, PhD’92 (Economics), published *Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier and Happier* (Penguin Press, 2011). Glaeser is the Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics at Harvard University. He



argues that, in spite of the common perception of cities as unhealthy, environmentally unfriendly, and poor, they are actually the healthiest, greenest, and richest places to live. Glaeser “makes clear how cities have not only survived but thrived, even as modern technology has seemingly made one’s physical location less important,” said Steven Levitt, the William B. Ogden Distinguished Service Professor of Economics.

Dig into more *Dialogo*

Additional divisional and alumni news appears in the online version of *Dialogo*, available at socialsciences.uchicago.edu/alumni.

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In Memoriam



Broder at the Alumni Awards ceremony in 2005.
(photo by Dan Dry)

DAVID BRODER, AB'47, AM'51

Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington Post* columnist David Broder died on March 9, 2011. He was 81.

At the University of Chicago, Broder earned his degrees in political science and was an editor of the *Chicago Maroon*. He went on to have a storied career in journalism. President Barack Obama said Broder “built a well-deserved reputation as the most respected and incisive political commentator of his generation.”

Before joining the *Washington Post* in 1966, Broder covered national politics for the *New York Times*, the *Washington Star*, and *Congressional Quarterly*. At the *Post*, he was the national political correspondent, with a twice-weekly column on American political life that was syndicated in more than 300 newspapers around the world. In addition, millions of television viewers watched Broder’s regular appearances on NBC’s *Meet the Press* and CNN’s *Inside Politics*. His work earned the 1973 Pulitzer Prize in journalism for distinguished commentary.

A frequent visitor to the University of Chicago campus, Broder received the Alumni Medal in 2005. He was recognized for mentoring young journalists, many of them fellow UChicago graduates. Broder met his wife, Ann C. Broder, AB'48, AM'51 (English), while in the College. Their son Michael earned his MBA from Booth in 1991.—*William Harms*



(photo courtesy of the University News Office)

CHARLES MONTGOMERY GRAY

Charles Montgomery Gray, a leading scholar of legal history and a professor emeritus at the University of Chicago, died Friday, April 22, at the University's Bernard Mitchell Hospital. He was 82.

He was the author of *Hugh Latimer and the Sixteenth Century* (Harvard University Press, 1950); *Copyhold, Equity, and the Common Law* (Harvard University Press, 1963); and *Renaissance and Reformation England* (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1973).

He was the husband of Hanna H. Gray, president emerita of the University, who is the Harry Pratt Judson Distinguished Service Professor Emerita of History. The Grays were married in 1954 after meeting in a seminar at Harvard University.

"Charles is already sorely missed," said Neil Harris, the Preston and Sterling Morton Professor Emeritus of History, who described Gray as "a major presence" in the life of the University as well as "an extraordinary person—learned, individualistic, gracious, cordial, and a wonderful friend."

Kathleen Neils Conzen, the Thomas E. Donnelley Professor of American History, praised Gray as "a wonderfully generous departmental colleague and always a voice of reason and civility in departmental discussions."

"He offered an imaginative range of courses in medieval British history, history of law, and history of legal theory," Conzen said, "but it

was his role as 'Western Civ. Teacher' that he once described as the persona 'that has almost become the center of my life.'"

Gray was named professor of history in 1978 after serving on the faculty at Yale University from 1974 to 1978 and previously at UChicago from 1960 to 1972. He also served as master of the New Collegiate Division and associate dean of the College.

He was a Guggenheim fellow from 1965 to 1966, and he held fellowships with the American Council of Learned Societies and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. He and Mrs. Gray served as coeditors of the *Journal of Modern History* for five years.

In addition to being a distinguished researcher, Gray was an outstanding teacher. In 1992, he received the University's top award for undergraduate teaching, the Llewellyn John and Harriet Manchester Quantrell Award.

He taught courses in Western civilization, medieval and early modern English history, and the history of English and European law, jurisprudence, and political theory. He also taught courses in Fundamentals: Issues and Texts, a program in the College.

Gray received an AB summa cum laude from Harvard in 1949, was a junior fellow of the Harvard Society of Fellows, and received his PhD from Harvard in 1956. He was a faculty member at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1956 to 1960.—*William Harms*



YI-CHUANG LU, AM'42, PHD'50

Yi-chuang Lu died on December 25, 2010. She was 97. Born in China, Lu received her BA from Yenching University in Beijing in 1935 and went on to earn two graduate degrees from the University of Chicago: a master's from the School of Social Service Administration and a PhD in sociology.

Lu served as a social worker at the Department of Neuropsychiatry, Peking Union Medical College, and as supervising sociologist at Manteno State Hospital in Illinois before teaching at the University of Chicago from 1968 to 1988. She retired in 1989.

At the University, Lu met her husband, Tang Tsou, the Homer J. Livingston Professor Emeritus of Political Science. He died in 1999 at the age of 80.

DIALOGO

SSD FACULTY AND ALUMNI TO CONVENE FOR ALUMNI WEEKEND 2011



(photo by Dan Dry)

This year's Alumni Weekend, June 2–5, includes a full plate of academic offerings for alumni of the Department of Political Science, along with some notable alumni and faculty award winners from across the Division.

In addition to the *UnCommon Core* sessions on Friday and Saturday afternoons, Alumni Weekend will feature the Alumni

Awards Ceremony in Rockefeller Chapel, with SSD graduates Mahar K. Mangahas, PhD'70 (Economics), Sidney Hyman, AB'36, AM'38 (International Relations), and Justin Yifu Lin, PhD'86 (Economics), all accepting awards. Emeritus anthropology professor George Stocking will receive the Norman Maclean Faculty Award.

For more information, visit alumniweekend.uchicago.edu.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

1:30–2:45 p.m.

UnCommon Core Session I

Kent Hall

Leo Strauss on Liberal Education

Nathan Tarcov

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Alumni Awards Ceremony

Rockefeller Chapel

1:30–2:45 p.m.

UnCommon Core Session III

Kent Hall

Beyond Bullying, Marriage, and the Military: Race, Radicalism, and Queer Politics

Cathy Cohen

4:15–5:30 p.m.

UnCommon Core Session IV

Kent Hall

Imperial by Design

John Mearsheimer

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